

We claim:

1. A laser device comprising:
  - a) at least one laser energy source for generating a laser beam;
  - b) a wand from which the laser beam emits, the wand being capable of being retained in a hand of a user and freely moved relative to the surface of the skin of a patient; and
  - c) a scanning head attached to the wand for receiving the laser beam and for directing the laser beam to a desired location.
2. A device according to claim 1 wherein the scanning head is adapted to direct the laser beam into any location in a hemisphere forward of the scanning head.
3. A device according to claim 1 wherein the scanning head comprises a movable optical element controllable to reflect the laser beam into a desired location.
4. A device according to claim 3 wherein the movable optical element is a prism.
5. A device according to claim 3 wherein the movable optical element is a mirror.
6. A device according to claim 1 wherein the scanning head comprises a spindle mounted for rotation on a hollow shaft, an optical element mounted on the spindle and rotatable in a plane perpendicular to a plane of rotation of the spindle, a cam slidably mounted on the spindle and rotatable with the spindle, and a hinged arm joining the cam to the optical element such that sliding motion of the cam on the spindle causes rotation of the optical element relative to the spindle.
7. A device according to claim 1 further comprising a scanner control for controlling the movement of the optical element.

8. A device according to claim 1 wherein the scanner control controls a shape of a treatment zone.
9. A device according to claim 1 wherein the scanner control controls an energy distribution in a treatment zone.
10. A device according to claim 1 wherein the scanner control controls a shape of a treatment zone and an energy distribution in the treatment zone.
11. A device according to claim 1 wherein the at least one laser energy source is a semiconductor diode.
12. A device according to claim 1 wherein the laser energy source generates a laser beam having a wavelength in the visible range.
13. A device according to claim 1 wherein the laser energy source generates a laser beam having a wavelength in the red range.
14. A device according to claim 1 further comprising a laser control for controlling the pulse repetition rate of the laser beam.
15. A device according to claim 1 wherein the pulse repetition rate is less than 100,000 Hz.
16. A device according to claim 1 comprising at least two laser energy sources, at least one of said laser energy sources emitting a visible laser beam.
17. A laser device comprising:
  - a) at least one laser energy source for generating a laser beam;
  - b) a wand from which the laser beam emits, the wand being capable of being retained in a hand of a user and freely moved relative to the surface of the skin of a patient; and

- c) means for causing the laser beam to rapidly scan and form a substantially static beam spot.
18. A therapeutic laser device comprising:
- a) a laser energy source generating a laser beam;
  - b) a wand from which the laser beams emit, the wand having an interior cavity and being capable of being retained in a hand of a user and freely moved relative to the surface of the skin of a patient;
  - c) a scanning head mounted in the interior cavity of the wand for receiving the laser beam and for directing the laser beam into a desired location, the scanning head comprising a spindle mounted for rotation on a hollow shaft, an optical element mounted on the spindle and rotatable in a plane perpendicular to a plane of rotation of the spindle, a cam slidably mounted on the spindle and rotatable with the spindle, and a hinged arm joining the cam to the optical element such that sliding motion of the cam on the spindle causes rotation of the optical element relative to the spindle; and
  - d) a control circuit for controlling the scanning head to direct the laser beam to form a desired shape.